

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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1. An apparatus, comprising:

a communication unit which receives email  
through a communication line, the email having been sent  
by a user and including a first identifier and data;

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an accumulation unit which stores therein the  
data;

a printout unit;

an input unit which receives a second  
identifier entered by the user through direct operation  
thereof; and

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a control unit which controls said printout  
unit to print the data corresponding to the first  
identifier by reading the data from said accumulation  
unit if the second identifier matches the first

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identifier.

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2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,

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wherein said communication unit is connected to the Internet and at least one of a facsimile line and a local area network.

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3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said accumulation unit includes:

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a private accumulation unit; and  
an output accumulation unit,

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wherein said control unit stores the data of the email including the first identifier in said private accumulation unit, and stores data of email failing to include the first identifier in said output accumulation unit to control said printout unit to print the data stored in said output accumulation unit immediately after the storing of the data in said output accumulation unit.

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4. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the first identifier is an identifier specifying

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further comprising a format conversion unit which converts a format of the data stored in said accumulation unit.

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8. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, constituting part of a facsimile apparatus.

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9. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, constituting part of a printer apparatus.

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10. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, constituting part of a digital copier that includes at least one of a facsimile function and a printer function.

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11. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,  
constituting part of a computer.

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12. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the data stored in the accumulation unit is  
deleted when a first predetermined time period passes  
10 after the storing of the data in the accumulation unit.

13. The apparatus as claimed in claim 12,  
wherein the data stored in the accumulation unit is  
deleted when a second predetermined time period passes  
after the data is read from the accumulation unit.

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14. The apparatus as claimed in claim 12,  
wherein the first predetermined time period and the  
second predetermined time period are set flexibly in  
25 response to an available memory space of said

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accumulation unit.

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15. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,  
further comprising a copyright management unit which  
prints information about copyright on a printout of the  
data if the data has copyright information attached  
thereto.

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16. The apparatus as claimed in claim 15,  
wherein said copyright management unit makes record of a  
royalty fee associated with use of the copyright.

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17. The apparatus as claimed in claim 15,  
wherein a print position and print size of said  
information about copyright is adjustable.

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18. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,  
further comprising:

a random number generation unit;

a number record unit which stores therein a  
5 random number generated by said random number generation  
unit as a password;

a password record unit which is provided as  
nonvolatile memory as part of said accumulation unit,  
and stores therein the password; and

10 a permission unit which allows access to the  
data of said accumulation unit if the password stored in  
said number record unit matches the password stored in  
said password record unit at a time of power on.

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19. The apparatus as claimed in claim 18,  
further comprising an encryption unit which encrypts the  
20 password.

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20. The apparatus as claimed in claim 18,

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wherein said random number generation unit generates a new random number each time power is turned on, and the new random number is stored in said password record unit as a password.

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21. The apparatus as claimed in claim 18,  
10 wherein the password is updated upon passage of a predetermined time period after the password is recorded in the password record unit.

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22. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein said communication unit receives by email a transfer identifier including the first identifier and a  
20 transfer destination email address, and said control unit reads the data corresponding to the first identifier included in the transfer identifier from the accumulation unit, followed by transferring the read data to the transfer destination email address.

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23. The apparatus as claimed in claim 22,  
wherein said control unit generates a transfer  
identifier including the second identifier and an email  
address of said apparatus if no data stored in said  
5 accumulation unit corresponds to the second identifier,  
and sends the generated transfer identifier to at least  
one other apparatus identical to the claimed apparatus.

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24. The apparatus as claimed in claim 23,  
wherein said accumulation unit includes:  
a private accumulation unit; and  
15 an output accumulation unit,  
wherein said control unit stores the data of  
the email including the first identifier in said private  
accumulation unit, and stores data of email failing to  
include the first identifier in said output accumulation  
20 unit to control said printout unit to print the data  
stored in said output accumulation unit immediately  
after the storing of the data in said output  
accumulation unit.

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25. The apparatus as claimed in claim 24,  
wherein said control unit attaches, to the generated  
transfer identifier, an instruction requesting that data  
be transferred by email including no first identifier.

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26. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,  
10 wherein said control unit controls said printout unit  
according to instructions of a processing instruction  
text, and transfers the data and the processing  
instruction text to another apparatus identical to the  
claimed apparatus if the email includes the processing  
15 instruction text.

20 27. The apparatus as claimed in claim 26,  
wherein said processing instruction text includes a  
description of one or more addresses of one or more  
transfer destination apparatuses.

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data transfer; and

an optimum route selection unit which refers to said relevant transfer destination record unit to select an optimum route, and changes a description of a transfer destination in the processing instruction text according to the selected optimum route.

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31. An apparatus, comprising:

a communication unit which receives email through a communication line, the email having been sent by a user and including data;

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an accumulation unit which stores therein the data;

a printout unit;

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an input unit which receives a first identifier entered by the user through direct operation thereof; and

a control unit which generates a second identifier corresponding to the data, and sends the second identifier to the user by email via the communication unit, said control unit controlling said printout unit to print the data corresponding to the

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second identifier by reading the data from said accumulation unit if the first identifier matches the second identifier.

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32. The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein the second identifier is a numerical value generated based on date and time of reception of the email received by said communication unit.

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33. The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein the second identifier is a numerical value including a check digit generated by predetermined rules.

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34. The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein the email received by said communication unit includes a third identifier, and said input unit

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receives a fourth identifier entered by the user in addition to the first identifier, said controlling unit controlling said printout unit to print the data corresponding to the second identifier by reading the  
5 data from said accumulation unit if the first identifier matches the second identifier and if the third identifier matches the fourth identifier.

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